

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PAWTUCKET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Friday, December 19, 2014 at 6:30 PM

School Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room

286 Main Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860

Minutes

I. Meeting will come to order

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, called the special meeting to order at 6:51 PM.

a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Araujo-here

Also in attendance were Mrs. Patricia DiCenso, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Lee Rabbitt, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Kathleen Suriani, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Melissa Devine, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Jon Anderson, Legal Counsel.

Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Tenreiro were not present.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, led the audience in the Pledge of

Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

Comments from the public are invited at this time. Citizens wishing to speak should sign in with the Committee Chair before speaking. The Committee is precluded from discussing or acting on items raised by Public Comment, which are not already on the agenda. Public comment will be included in the minutes of the meeting

None

III. Executive Session

Mr. Araujo commented that the Committee would recess to executive session in accordance with provisions under Title 42, Chapter 46, Subsection 5(a) (2) legal advice and litigation/collective bargaining of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island for the purpose of discussing and/or acting upon the following:

a. Litigation

1. Pension Litigation

2. Special Education Student

3. Botelho v. City of Pawtucket School Department

b. Seal Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Nordquist moved to recess to executive session. Mr.

Spooner seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carries unanimously with five members present.

The Committee recessed to executive session at 6:55 PM to 7:21 PM.

IV. Reconvene to open session

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, reconvened the open session at 7:23 PM.

a. Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-here; Ms. Cano-here; Ms. Nordquist-here; Mr. Spooner-here; Mr. Araujo-here

V. Report out vote(s) of executive session of 12/19/14, if applicable

The Chairman asked the clerk if there were any votes to report out of executive session.

The clerk reported that the Committee voted unanimously on pension litigation, to seal executive session minutes and to adjourn the executive session with five members present.

VI. Old Business/Action Items

a. Approval of School Food Service Contract

Mrs. DiCenso: Mr. Anderson, Ms. Devine and I have spent hours and weekends to resolve the food service contract. Today we found out that the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is unable to release it because the person who helps review it was out sick two

days. We have it before you as reviewed by our attorney, but we do not have a document from RIDE.

Mr. Spooner moved to table the Approval of the School Food Service Contract. Ms. Cano seconded.

Mr. Anderson: I'm comfortable with the language. Aramark is stuck in the same traffic jam, but is also satisfied with the language. You can withdraw your motion and approve on the condition of two things; it is satisfactory to the Superintendent and Aramark.

Mr. Spooner: I don't want to withdraw without a signed document.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-no; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carries; four in favor; one opposed-Ms. Nordquist.

b. Approval of 2nd Reading Budget Transfer Policy

Mrs. DiCenso: I am going to turn this item over to Ms. Devine.

Ms. Devine: At the last meeting, we presented a draft and the

committee made suggestions to incorporate in the document to bring all transfers up to \$7,500 to include in the discussion each month and that was added. Anything greater than \$7,500 is brought to the Committee for a vote. We should have a policy.

The School Committee adopts a budget in April and it's premature but you build a budget as best you can with the data you have. We bring it back if there are significant changes. It is good to bring it back in early August. The law and school committee requires a budget amendment. We are asking for allowance to keep you in the loop on a daily basis.

The auditors said in FY13 comments they realize the budget is approved by the committee and the budget is brought back to the committee three (3) times and noticed many line item changes and recommended a formal process.

Ms. Bonollo moved to approve the 2nd reading of the budget transfer policy as recommended by the Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Devine. Ms. Cano seconded.

Mr. Araujo: Do all districts have this?

Ms. Devine: I know my previous district did.

Mr. Anderson: When I was on the committee it happened all the time.

This puts in writing when she can do it and when it can't happen. If the Business Administrator follows the policy and if she doesn't, you will find out in the Audit.

Since the lawyer recommended it you will be smashed if the auditors fine you.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carries unanimously with five members present.

c. Approval of Request for Proposals—Maintenance (10)

Mrs. DiCenso: We did get legal input for these proposals.

Mr. Anderson: The question was whether we followed RIDE recommendations of awarding the contracts to minority vendors. This doesn't apply to contracts less than \$500,000. Some of the contracts are not construction, they are service contracts. These are all small contracts.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve all maintenance proposals: small roof repairs-CMG Roofing; monthly exterminating- A & D Professional

Pest Elimination; plumbing services-Arden Engineering; generator services-The Lightship Group; boiler services-Industrial Burner Inc.; boiler burner cleaning-Commercial Heating Services; H.V.A.C-Lutz Air Co., Inc.; chairlift inspections and services-Otis Elevator; testing & inspection of fire alarms, sprinkler systems & fire extinguishers-Home & Commercial Security. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carries unanimously with five members present.

VII. New Business/Action Item

a. Approval of Administrators' Contracts

Mrs. DiCenso: We are presenting the administrators' contracts this evening. They are the only group not offered a raise in the last six years. We are giving a raise, but they are giving back fifteen days so they are aligned to close and open schools and receive professional development. Each contract is individual and we have one year, two year and three year contracts. Each administrator has signed their contract.

We researched the Rhode Island models and looked at certified

teacher models. Each one has met and discussed and agreed with this contract.

Ms. Nordquist moved to approve the Administrators' Contracts as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Mr. Spooner seconded.

Ms. Nordquist: This is the first time we have done it like this instead of collectively bargaining. When it came up to do the ones who have the one year contracts, will they get a three year contract further out?

Mrs. DiCenso: We set up lengths because setting up 32 individual contracts is very difficult. It was set up in lengths to stagger negotiations in thirds. If they are paid by a grant, we need to be sure the grant is fulfilled. Two had multiple measures status such as warning. Three year went for the most senior principals established.

You can't look at performance while they've done remarkably. The high schools were brought on for three years due to transformation so we can negotiate again in August.

Mr. Spooner: I wanted to thank everybody involved. The last time it got through on a four to three vote and someone I admire called it a golden parachute. Some of our principals are better than others.

Mrs. DiCenso: If I could speak to being a principal, it was a wonderful

part of my career. I have a high regard for them. We need to work more unified and working on the cutting edge 21st Century curriculum. One is a dual language Spanish program in kindergarten that will be proficient by high school. If we cannot get principals to do that we cannot be successful. This is a different shift, working summer and vacations. They are year round employees. It was a culture shift for them.

I'm proud of them for taking this forward.

Ms. Nordquist: I'm glad to see we could vote on this. This solidifies for me their dedication and commitment.

Mr. Araujo: I would like to thank Patti, Lee and the administrators who agreed to this. It was a tremendous shift and great effort in moving forward.

Roll call

Ms. Bonollo-yes; Ms. Cano-yes; Ms. Nordquist-yes; Mr. Spooner-yes; Mr. Araujo-yes

Motion carries unanimously with five members present.

b. Approval of Certified Coaching Appointment

Mrs. DiCenso: We are asking for your approval for the following coaching appointment:

Head Freshmen Football Coach at Tolman High School—Eric Tavares.

Voice vote carries unanimously with five members present.

c. Approval of Non-Certified Appointment

Mrs. DiCenso: In order to be compliant with special needs I am nominating Sandra Cotrone to fill the special education building assistant/instructional assistant/personal care attendant at the Jenks Junior High School.

Mr. Spooner moved to approve the non certified appointment of Sandra Cotrone as recommended by the Superintendent, Mrs. DiCenso. Ms. Cano seconded.

Ms. Bonollo: Is this the second?

Ms. DiCenso: We had many people working on sub pay so we can't keep adding substitute teacher assistants. This was done very mindfully.

Ms. Bonollo: You're using historical information for job filling?

Mrs. DiCenso: We looked at projections and used that money that wasn't used. It's a better process to look at a shift.

Ms. Bonollo: What do we do if someone leaves?

Mrs. DiCenso: We move them where they are needed. We don't want to find out at the end of the year we had all substitutes.

Ms. Devine: It's a repurposing system. We now have a tracking system.

Mrs. DiCenso: Sometime the team may bring in a substitute to support the need, but we don't want to get in that habit.

Ms. Bonollo: So now we have everybody in positions? Can we get a list of our employees and positions and where they work?

Ms. Devine: Sure.

Voice vote carries unanimously with five members present.

VIII. Superintendent Report

Mrs. DiCenso: We had many wonderful celebrations. We visited the Principal at Greene and went into the talent show and were so

impressed at the talent and confidence of the students to do so well in front of their peers.

The day before vacation the elementary students at Little went to see the Nutcracker and another group went to Trinity and it was wonderful to see education built in as well as a treat for them.

There was a math game in the fourth grade at Little between two classes.

There have been beautiful music celebrations as well and great parent attendance.

IX. Special Reports of School Committee Members

Ms. Bonollo: Happy holidays.

Ms. Cano: Yesterday I came to a first important meeting here. The Pawtucket district is asking for anyone who wants to partner with parent engagement and I was invited to go. One of my platforms was parent engagement. I am especially proud of this committee and what they have done. I was especially proud of the parents, Kimberly Grant and Kaydie McQuade; Members elect who were invited to attend. I want to congratulate Lisa Fonseca for all of her ideas.

I want to congratulate the Superintendent for working with math

insight.

Assistant Superintendent, Lee Rabbitt was here and was great and open to all partners who attended. I'm really proud of this district.

Mrs. DiCenso: Once you begin to open doors, more people come in. The National Federation of Teachers has asked to partner with us because of what they are seeing and hearing. They want to adopt us. Lisa has been extremely important. The Library is working so that every first grader will get a library card. Erin Dube's husband was here representing the United Way. This is the first time they are able to give money to the district.

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Ms. Nordquist: I had the opportunity to go to Goff and was very impressed by the middle school band and its growing. It's good to see students involved, to see students coming after school and dedicated. I'm very big on student engagement. Hopefully we can get a food service vendor squared away. I know it's not easy for them.

Happy holidays. Thank you.

Mr. Spooner: Merry Christmas everyone.

Mr. Araujo: I echo your sentiments to have to table an item. I will ask Ms. Liss to poll the committee to see if you can tie this up before the end of the year. One line years ago from the “Godfather” comes to mind, “When he puts you out, he pulls you back in.” It’s been great working with the folks leaving if we don’t meet.

Happy holidays and have a safe holiday.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Spooner moved to adjourn. Ms. Bonollo seconded.

Voice vote carries with five members present.

The Chairman, Mr. Araujo, adjourned the special meeting of the Pawtucket School Committee on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk

Approved by School Committee 1-13-2015